

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re application of Christopher R. O'KEEFE et al.

Serial No.: 09/973,660

Examiner: Michael G. Bogart

Filed: October 9, 2001

Art Unit: 3761

Confirmation No.: 6343

For: **ANTI-REFLUX DRAINAGE DEVICES AND METHODS**

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the restriction requirement mailed February 24, 2004, a response to which is due on March 24, 2004, the Examiner requested that the Applicants elect between the following inventions:

Invention 1 – claims 1-11 and 14-29, drawn to a stent comprising a shaft and stopper style valve; and

Invention 2 – claims 30-36 and 39, drawn to a ball valve.

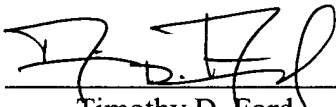
**The Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Invention 1, which is directed to Claims 1-11 and 14-29, for prosecution on the merits.**

The Applicants do not believe that extensions of time, fees for net addition of claims, or any other fees are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

Dated: 3/12/04

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